



## Cost Share Available for Organic Farms and Companies

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MADISON – Organic certification distinguishes a farm and company for its production techniques, but the price of certification can be costly. The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) again is announcing the opportunity for organic farms and companies that sell, process or package organic agricultural products to apply for the Organic Certification Cost Share Program to offset that expense. Funding for the program comes from the USDA National Organic Program.

The Organic Certification Cost Share Program provides cost-share assistance to producers or handlers of organic agricultural products who are currently certified by a USDA/NOP Accredited Certifying Agency. Eligible producers or handlers may receive reimbursement for 75% of their certification costs up to a maximum of \$750. If certified in more than one certification category, such as crops, livestock and processing, applicants are eligible to receive up to \$750 for each category.

Any certification-related expenses incurred from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 are eligible for reimbursements. Examples of reimbursable expenses include inspection, user fees and certifier-required testing.

To apply for reimbursement, a one-page application, a W-9 form, a copy of the current Organic Certificate and a copy of the itemized paid invoices from your certifier are required. Applications must be postmarked on or before October 31, 2012. Faxed or emailed applications cannot be accepted. Reimbursements will be made on a first-come, first-served basis until program funds are exhausted or the October 31 deadline.

Application materials will be mailed to all organic farms and processors in Wisconsin and are also available at [datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Organic\\_Farming/Cost\\_Share\\_Program/](http://datcp.wi.gov/Farms/Organic_Farming/Cost_Share_Program/). For questions or more information, contact Laura Paine, DATCP's Grazing and Organic Agriculture Specialist, at 608-224-5120 or [laura.paine@wi.gov](mailto:laura.paine@wi.gov).

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